



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of: John C. Gano, Tommie A. Freeman,  
John S. Bowling and James R.  
Longbottom

Entitled: EXPANDABLE WELLBORE  
JUNCTION

Filed: March 30, 2004

Serial No.: 10/812,597

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: George A. Suchfield

**STATEMENT OF STATUS AND SUPPORT  
UNDER 37 CFR §1.173(c)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

All of the claims 1-13 which originally issued in U.S. Patent No. 6,189,616 have been canceled by preliminary amendment in this divisional reissue application. Claims 14-60 were added by the preliminary amendment. Claims 14-60 remain pending. Claims 18 and 26 have been substantively amended by the accompanying Amendment.

The amendments to claims 18 and 26 add limitations to these claims which are supported by the original disclosure. For example, in FIG. 2D and the accompanying description (column 5, line 49 to column 8, line 13) are described an upper parent wellbore 62, lower parent wellbore 72 and branch or lateral wellbore 80 which are

connected by a wellbore connector 74 with a passage 78 therein. The upper parent wellbore 62 could alternatively be a lateral or branch wellbore (see column 5, lines 62-65). Thus, the wellbore connector 74 and the internal passage 78 provide fluid communication between the wellbores 62, 72, 80.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 19, 2005

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

on JULY 19, 2005  
Sherna Stufko